

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate Meeting

Richard E. Beaupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences, Room 105

May 3, 2018

Minutes, Meeting #9

1. The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:03 p.m. in Room 105 of the Richard E. Beaupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences, Chairperson Conley presiding. The call to order was followed by an invitation to accompany the Chair in singing “Shalom Chaverim.”

“Shalom, chaverim,
Shalom, chaverim,
Shalom, shalom;
L’hitra’ot,
L’hitra’ot,
Shalom, shalom.
Shalom, o my friends,
Shalom, o my friends,
Shalom, shalom;
Till we meet again,
Till we meet again,
Shalom, shalom.”

All members were present except Senators Anderson, Ashley, Boving, Djurdjevic, Harris, Hashemi, Hunter, Kovoor, Meenach, Ohley, Robinson, Ruemmele, Sartini, and Sodhi; *ex officio* members Vice Presidents Collins, Rider, and Snyder; Deans Bonn, Ebrahimpour, Kirby, Richmond, Riley, Wolfe, Wright, and Zawia. Associate Dean Smith represented Dean Corliss and Associate Dean Seitsinger represented Dean Rolle.

2. Chairperson Conley announced that the minutes of Faculty Senate meeting #8, April 19, 2018 had been posted with the agenda. He asked if there were any additions, corrections to or questions about the minutes. There were none. Chairperson Conley said that, seeing that there were no corrections, he considered the minutes approved.

3. REPORT OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. Announcements

1. Chairperson Conley welcomed 22 new Senators to the Faculty Senate:

ARTS AND SCIENCES

Audrey Cardany, Music
Megan Echevarría, Languages
Art Mead, Economics
Lisa Tom, Art
Ping Xu, Political Science

BUSINESS

Dara Schniederjans, Area Coordinator, Supply Chain Management

ENGINEERING

Christopher Hunter, Civil & Environmental Engineering
Samantha Meenach, Chemical Engineering
Manbir Sodhi, Mechanical, Industrial & Systems Engineering

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Sandy Hicks, School of Education

ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE SCIENCES

Joel Chandlee, Cell and Molecular Biology
Bridget Ruemmele, Plant Sciences and Entomology
Becky Sartini, Fisheries, Animal And Veterinary Sciences

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF OCEANOGRAPHY

Brice Loose, Chemical Oceanography

HEALTH SCIENCES

Molly Greaney, Kinesiology
Dana Kovarsky, Chair, Communicative Disorders
Skye Leedah, Human Development & Family Studies
Patricia Morokoff, Psychology

NURSING

Debra Erickson-Owens

PHARMACY

Abraham Kovoov, Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences (2019)
Tracey Taveira, Pharmacy Practice

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Harrison Dekker, Public Services, Data Services

Chairperson Conley thanked outgoing members of the Executive Committee, Senators Leslie Mahler and Michael Rice. He informed new Senators who might not be familiar with the election of officers that, each February, an election is held to fill a two-year position, the Vice Chair/Chair-elect. He explained that, for continuity, this senator serves as an officer for two years, as the Vice Chair one year and then as the Chair the following year. Two years ago, Senator Hillary Leonard had been elected to this position. She had served as the Vice Chair during 2017-18 but would assume the office of Chair of the Senate at the end of today's meeting. Chairperson Conley said that, in February 2018, Senator Bahram Nassersharif had been elected Vice Chair/Chair-elect and that he, Senator Nassersharif, would assume the office of Vice Chair at the end of today's meeting. Chairperson Conley introduced the other returning Executive Committee members: Senator Lynne Derbyshire, from the College of Arts and Sciences and Honors Program, and Senator Mayrai Gindy from the College of Engineering.

2. Chairperson Conley thanked Provost DeHayes for sponsoring the reception that would follow the meeting. He invited Senate members to stay after the meeting to socialize.
3. Chairperson Conley announced that Fritz Wenisch, Professor of Philosophy, from the College of Arts and Sciences, had been selected to receive the 2018 Sheila Black Grubman Faculty Outstanding Service Award. In its 8th year, he said that the award is made jointly by the Faculty Senate and the Office of the Provost. In 2013, the award was renamed the Sheila Black Grubman Faculty Outstanding Service Award in honor of Sheila Grubman's 40 years of service as the Faculty Senate Coordinator. Ms. Grubman was present at the meeting and was asked to join the Chair in the presentation of the award. Chairperson Conley noted Professor Wenisch's long record of service over nearly five decades. He said that Professor Wenisch was known to many as the "Chief CBUMmer" because he had chaired the Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual Committee for more than 20 years and that his knowledge of the history, content, and meaning of those institutional documents and their application to life on campus astounded even the most well-informed. Chairperson Conley said that Professor Wenisch's ever-ready answers to parliamentary puzzles had kept many from wandering "out of order." Provost DeHayes added his congratulatory remarks. He said that Professor Wenisch was known for his wit and wisdom as he navigated challenging issues around language and current day understanding of content. His perspective was always objective and thoughtful. The Provost said that Professor Wenisch took his work seriously but did not take himself seriously. Provost DeHayes thanked Ms. Grubman for returning to campus every year since her retirement for the presentation of the award and he considered her an icon of service. Dr. Wenisch was presented with a plaque and, in honor of his penchant for poetry, Chairperson Conley read aloud an acrostic that he had written for the occasion:

"Felicitations, Fritz, on this - The day
Reserved to honor service – even more:
Intended to inspire your colleagues' way,

To recognize that duty is no chore.
Zeal for truth informs the work you've done.

"Wisdom and sense of humor," "counsel, guide."
Encomiums? "Distinguished service," "Fun!"
Now "wit," "humility, "compassion" bide.
In writing Manual language, words you change
Solve thorny issues, and in record time:
Clarity of thought in law is strange;
How rarer still, to have it done in rhyme!

We thank you for your roles upon our stage:
Philosopher and poet, scholar, sage."

Professor Wenisch thanked Ms. Grubman, Chairperson Conley, Provost DeHayes, and those assembled. He said that most of what he learned about the Manual he had learned from Ms. Grubman. He added that he considered his humility to be his greatest strength and that he was very proud of it.

4. Senator DiCioccio, Director of Innovation in General Education, presented the Excellence in General Education Awards, the first, she said, of what would be annual awards to recognize two members of the URI faculty who had demonstrated excellence in the delivery and design of a general education course, providing students with an intellectually stimulating, challenging, and dynamic general education experience. She announced that Kristine Cabral from Communication Studies had been selected for her teaching of COM 243G Advertising and Consumerism and that Marc Hutchison had been selected as the second award recipient for his teaching of PSC 116G Introduction to International Politics. Professors Cabral and Hutchison were acknowledged for their exemplary teaching of general education courses.
5. Chairperson Conley asked that individuals who wished to speak wait to be recognized by the chair and also identify themselves and their department before speaking.

B. Activities of the Executive Committee

Vice Chairperson Leonard announced that the Minutes of Executive Committee meetings #28 and #29 were available on the Faculty Senate website. She asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Vice Chairperson Leonard introduced the following resolution:

Whereas, Mark Conley was elected Vice-Chair and Chair of the Faculty Senate in early 2016, serving as Chair from May of 2017 to May 2018, and

Whereas, he has introduced shared song making to the faculty senate chambers fostering community and cooperation, and

Whereas, he has brought the discipline of a conductor to the faculty senate and its workings, directing the cacophonous chorus of voices of the university, moving us forward, with impeccable timing and grace towards improved University governance,

Whereas, he has made faculty senate committees go KABOOM! and directed the creation of a new faculty senate committee structure orchestrated to engage faculty and encourage participation of senators,

Therefore, be it Resolved,

[Paraphrased and to the tune of "Red River Valley" by Marty Robbins]

"From the Senate they say you are going
We shall miss your fun songs and your style
For some say you are taking the sunshine
That has brightened our pathway a while.

Please just sit by our side for a while now
Do not hasten to bid us adieu
Just remember the Faculty Senate
And the folks who have loved you so true."

She asked for a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution was moved, seconded, and approved.

- C. Senator Mahler presented the Report of the Nominating Committee. She said that the Senate would elect two additional members of the Executive Committee: one Senator to a 2-year term and one Senator to a 1-year term. She placed in nomination for the two-year term the names of Senator Michael Honhart, Professor of History from the College of Arts and Sciences and Senator Patricia Morokoff, Professor of Psychology from the College of Health Sciences. Senator Mahler asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. She asked for a motion to close nominations. Nominations were closed. Ballots were distributed. Chairperson Conley said that the Senate would proceed to the next item of business during balloting.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The President read from the April 23, 2018 letter from Dr. David P. Angel, Chair of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Institutions of Higher Education to President Dooley informing him of the continued accreditation of the University of Rhode Island and impressions of the visiting (NEASC accreditation) team. President Dooley noted the particular praise by the visiting team of the faculty: "remarkable faculty and staff who are committed to the

institution's mission and student success" and acknowledgement of a "talented campus community, combined with high-quality academic programs and a strong governance structure." The President said that the team had been truly impressed by the faculty and students.

3. C. Senator Mahler announced that Senator Morokoff had been elected to the 2-year term on the Executive Committee for 2018-2019. She then placed in nomination for the 1-year term on the Executive Committee the name of Senator Robert Schwegler. Senator Mahler asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Senator Morokoff nominated Senator Honhart. Senator Honhart accepted the nomination. Senator Mahler asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor. There were none. She asked for a motion to close nominations. Nominations were closed. Ballots were distributed.

5. REPORTS OF STANDING, JOINT, AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- A. Senator Hicks presented the Report of the Undergraduate Academic Advising Committee. She noted the 2017-18 members of the Committee, the Committee charge, and summarized the activities of their meetings. The Committee recommended that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee in conjunction with the new Teaching, Advising, and Assessment Committee consider further initiatives to encourage faculty participation in the use of STARFISH training and implementation.
3. C. Senator Mahler announced that Senator Honhart had been elected to the 1-year term on the Executive Committee for 2018-19. Chairperson Conley thanked those willing to be nominated for election.
5. B. Senator Gindy presented the Report of the Learning Outcomes Assessment Oversight Committee on behalf of the Chair of the Committee, Professor Heikes. She summarized the purpose of the Committee: to promote, support, and ensure effective program assessment. Senator Gindy summarized the activities of the last year. The Committee approved the student learning outcomes assessment plans for the following programs proposals: undergraduate degrees in International Studies and Diplomacy (A&S), and Innovation and Entrepreneurship (COB); undergraduate certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship (COB); post masters certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (CON), and graduate certificates in Aquaculture and Fisheries (CELS) and Science Writing (CELS). She reported that, since 2012, URI had followed a cohort-based system for biennial reporting of accredited and non-accredited academic programs with roughly half of all programs reporting each May. Success in learning outcomes assessment has been defined by two metrics: compliance with program reporting requirements and reporting proficiency, the use of best assessment practices to examine learning. The results of May 2017 (cohort II): 13 of 16 non-accredited, undergraduate programs submitted reports; 11 met or exceeded expectations. 11 of 17 non-accredited undergraduate programs submitted reports following-up on recommendations made for improvement from prior years; 8 met or exceeded expectations. 8/8 of accredited programs submitted reports; all 8 met expectations.

8 of 14 non-accredited, graduate programs submitted reports assessing a new outcome; 4 met or exceeded expectations. 2 of 4 non-accredited, graduate programs submitted reports following-up on recommendations made for improvement from prior years; of these, 1 met or exceeded expectations. 7 of 14 accredited, graduate programs submitted reports; all 7 met expectations. Senator Gindy acknowledged faculty members who had submitted reports for programs that had exceeded expectations: Naomi Mandel (English), Laura Meyerson and Yeqiao Wang (Natural Resource Sciences), Karen McCurdy (Human Development and Family Studies), Ryan Omizo (Writing and Rhetoric), Julie Coiro (School of Education), Kristin Johnson (Political Science), Ingrid Lofgren (Nutrition and Food Sciences).

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairperson Conley summarized the newly restructured Senate committees, the new Senate service requirements, and the workload adjustment associated with some of the committee positions. Vice Chairperson Leonard projected the committee sign-up survey and answered questions. She urged Senators interested in positions that offered workload adjustment to discuss their options with their chairs and/or deans. She said that the FSEC planned to complete committee appointments by the end of May. Chairperson Conley asked if there were any other unfinished business. There was none.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Conley asked if there were any New Business. There was none.

- 8.** In a symbolic gesture, Chairperson Conley handed the gavel to Vice Chairperson Leonard. Chairperson Leonard asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff